

Peak, Nicholas

From: In Defense of Animals <takeaction@idausa.org> on behalf of Trevor Rowntree <takeaction@idausa.org>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Peak, Nicholas
Subject: Comment on 84 FR 56809: Don't Reissue Idaho CAFO Permits

Nov 29, 2019

Mr. Peak Nicholas

Dear Mr. Nicholas,

As one of 250,000 supporters of the California-based international animal protection nonprofit organization In Defense of Animals, I respectfully urge the EPA's Region 10 Office to NOT reissue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Idaho's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). CAFOs perpetrate severe animal cruelty, are inherently unsustainable, and cause significant environmental damage. The EPA is charged with safeguarding human health and the environment, and therefore should not give corporations permission to invade rural communities and damage their residents' health.

CAFOs produce large quantities of waste and manure, which is dumped in lagoons or large fields. During downpours, the waste can overflow causing runoff to end up in rural communities' water supplies. Waste also seeps into underground aquifers containing groundwater.

Additionally, CAFOs are a significant source of air pollution.

According to the National Association of Local Boards of Health, CAFOs create a stench which forces neighbors to stay indoors and emit toxic fumes which cause neurological and respiratory disorders. The fumes produced in CAFOs are deliberately blown outside with fans since they are toxic to the workers and animals inside them.

These disastrous problems are inherent to CAFOs. Although some steps can be taken to lessen the environmental destruction they cause, CAFOs, by nature, will always lead to significant harm and suffering. The EPA should use its authority to protect the health of rural communities, animals bred for slaughter, and wild animals who are adversely affected by CAFOs, instead of the profits of powerful corporations.

I am sincerely hoping that logic and compassion will replace greed and denial on this most critical of issues.

Sincerely,

Mr. Trevor Rowntree

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A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and any accompanying text or contact information for Mr. Trevor Rowntree.